GUIDE TO THE NQ13 GROS VENTRE FILE

[This file is concerned with the Algonquian-speaking Gros Ventre (Atsina) Indians of Montana. During their cultural apogee in the nineteenth century they were nomadic bison-hunters like the neighboring Blackfeet and their own close relatives, the Arapaho. They now live principally on the Fort Belknap Reservation in Montana, the locale of most of the field work in this file. There are eight sources in the file, all of them in English, and written by three American anthropologists. The basic sources are three: 1: Kroeber is based on fieldwork in 1901 and is a general ethnographic study, with many regional comparisons, but not containing information in depth in many important cultural categories; 2: Flannery, based on fieldwork at Fort Belknap between 1940 and 1948, is a reconstruction of Gros Ventre social life as of around 1880; and 3: Cooper is a similar analysis of Gros Ventre religion and ritual based on field work between 1931 to 1940. The other sources in the file, all by Flannery and Cooper, are short ones which examine various aspects of Gros Ventre culture, e.g., gambling, the grass dance, the shaking tent rite, and the range of behavior allowed to females.

There is material in most of the cultural categories in this file, although there is none in any great depth. The Gros Ventre are a relatively small tribe, so there is no great problem of cultural focus; however, the time depth and the ethnographic present of the works should be noted by researchers. There were no special marking decisions made for the Gros Ventre file, which was processed between 1961 and 1964.]